

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1909.

CANNED VS FRESH

BY J. T. STACKER.



THE effect the motion picture craze has on the Honolulu public is questionable. According to William D. Adams, a local impresario who manages the Hawaiian Opera House, it is "undetermined and will remain so until some big attraction comes here to do business."

"Motion pictures and cheap vaudeville have had the effect, so far, of bringing people out of their shells after the electric lights are turned on," said he, while pulling notes yesterday out of a horn attachment to a talking machine. "I have played a couple of big attractions at the Opera house during the past year but the motion picture microbe had not got its clutch on the public to any great extent at the time. Since then it has become a habit and Honolulu is no longer a 'sleepy old town.' I do not see that there has been any falling off in the attendance at the cheap places of amusement. It's a fact that another has started and is being well patronized and will be so long as the fleet stays in port beyond that, God wot."

Mr. Adams did not say that as a man would who had a financial interest in the concern, he simply did not wot. The question of the upkeep of these institutions is largely a matter of craze. It is something for the managers to contemplate and decided because the population seems not to be changing as rapidly as the new fun-makers are presented, consequently one fad must draw from another, and home-staying may be a fad with some people.

Pictures Had the Bulge.
"The motion pictures had the bulge on the town for months when Brother Joe dropped in with his vaudeville attachment to the pictures and the attendance at the other shows immediately showed signs of decay, recovering after the first week and without apparently affecting the uptown house. Then Joe played the skating rink against his own show and the sun began to revolve around the earth. At

the same time I had the Withers Concert Company for a couple of concerts at the opera house. The receipts were not such as would warrant Withers returning here. It showed the effect of cheap theaters upon the higher price and higher class entertainments because we have practically the same theatergoing population we had when the company gave its concert a few months previously. This falling off in attendance at the opera house caused me to put this question to myself: 'Will it pay me to negotiate for the better attractions?' and I pause in answering.

Perhaps False Appetite.
"The public says it is both hungry and thirsty for something real in the theatrical line but it may have what is called a false appetite that will go back on it as soon as prices are mentioned. The big companies want a guarantee but it seldom happens that a local manager can secure the necessary support in time to make connections with companies playing at the coast.

Honolulu has, probably, as much wealth per capita as any city on the mainland and the people of wealth should, for the educational features, show a willingness to come to the front when a good show offering is made.

Hopes Dashed.
I had hopes that while Robert Mantell was on the coast some months ago that he would come here for a season but his success was so great there that he would not take the chance. Then John Drew was in the theatrical air but with the same results. Both artists went east to achieve greater honors."

Going But Not Gone.
That Honolulu has theatrically retrograded during the past years is evidenced by the lack of first-class companies coming here though the population, recruited largely from the mainland, has increased. Even the amateur productions are lacking in essentials though heavier plays have been on the boards. The rejuvenated Hawaiian opera house was opened in 1896 by a company of amateurs that has not been excelled. "Jane" was the curtain

raiser with Major George Potter as lead. Most of those who took part are dead or away from Hawaii. This was followed the same night, by Trovatore, I think, with Mme. Annis Montague Turner and Mrs. Carey Dimond in the leading female characters. It was a success from every point of view and the enthusiasm reminded one of the initial production of a play in a Broadway house.

Social Functions.
William G. Irwin took a personal interest in the opening to the extent that he wanted it a social function that would be remembered by the people of Honolulu. The late William T. Porter, the artist who painted the scenery, was called before the curtain to tell where he got his inspiration for the drop curtain. His answer was characteristic of most scenic artists for he told the audience that the picture came to him in a dream and on awakening he proceeded to put it on paper. Everybody connected with the opening had a chance to speak; for the audience called for them and excuses were not accepted.

Satin Souvenir Programs.
"I remember, too, that Mr. Irwin gave an order for one hundred souvenir programs to be printed on satin and no expense was to be spared. The material for those programs cost three dollars and a half and Mr. Irwin had his wish, I guess, for I cannot realize anyone forgetting the occasion though years have passed and event has crowded event in the old town. He told me afterward that aside from the usual press courtesies but two free tickets had been sent out and they were returned unused. The house was crowded with the elite of the city, every seat, box and loge was occupied and the performance was a tremendous artistic and financial success. The following week Mme. Montague Turner produced another opera, I have forgotten the name, to big business.

"Then came the professional opening by the Frawley company. And it was a corker. As I let my mind go back to the cast, which I do whenever I see the name of Blanche Bates in a mainland paper, I marvel at it.

Stars Shone.
"Why we had for three weeks such people as Blanche Bates, Frank Worthing, Harry Corson Clarke, Maelyn Arbuckle, Miss Ross, Madge Carr Cooke and Mrs. Bates and others of equal note and prominence as the support for the genial T. Daniel Frawley who headed the list. The company played three nights and a matinee each week to big houses though I question if the people really knew what they were being treated to. The Frawleys came again and again but the business did not diminish in the least. I remember a promise Frawley made on one occasion in response to a curtain call. He thanked the audience for its reception and said he hoped to make an annual visit to Honolulu at least once every year. It's possible, of course, that this was intentional humor on the part of Dan'l. and it may have been an Irish bull for he is a true born son of Erin.

First Low Bow.
"I made my initial bow to Honolulu in the Janet Waldorf company which opened at the Opera House during 1897 with Twelfth Night. We had a good company and played to good business for several weeks. Honolulu looked so good to me that I remained and barring a couple of visits away I have remained ever since.

Future Brighter.
"With this awakening of Honolulu, even though the force be cheap, I think Honolulu will profit by it. Get the people accustomed to going out, get the spending habit on them and I guess it may extend to high price attractions. The great obstacles in the way of getting companies here is the transportation and the guarantee. I am constrained to believe that more than three nights of a good attraction will have a better patronage now than when Frawley first came here because we have a larger theater-going population.

Theaters Were Bad.
"When that company first came there was a good deal of the same sort of opposition to theaters as there used to be to the Sunday paper. But this is wearing off and 'I look for better things,' as the old Presbyterian lady said when she heard that the Unitarians' belief was that all people would be saved. Frawley came here under the management of Friedlander, Gottlieb and Marx while Waldorf came practically unannounced and speaking of that firm it is meet for me to tell you that today they represent the greatest syndicate on the mainland besides being the lessees of the Columbia theater which is to be reopened in San Francisco in November."

Adams mentioned that firm in a sort of begood-to-them voice, a stage whisper, so to speak, for it is to them we must look for much of our entertainment in the future if we are to have the best that comes to the Coast.

"I have been in correspondence with this firm with a view to getting some of the twenty best sellers down here for short seasons," he explained. "I note in the recent papers at the Coast that some of the best stars in the dramatic firmament are likely to play

in San Francisco during the winter and the list includes Dustin Farnum, Blanche Bates, George Cohan, Billee Burke, Robert Mantell, W. H. Crane, Anna Held, John Drew and a few other headliners. Any one of these would make a noise like something good to Honolulu and do you know I half believe that, picture shows to the contrary, there are enough people here who enjoy real acting to warrant beginning negotiations. The Frawleys are, apparently, playing independently of the syndicate headed by Klaw and Erlanger and represented in the West by Friedlander, Gottlieb and Marx. I look for them here next month, after they return from Alaska and play a short engagement in one or two of the sound cities.

"I am promised three plays a week, if the performances are limited to that many, or three changes a week if we play six nights and a matinee. Their repertoire includes some of the latest and best productions on the stage and they have been playing to great business wherever they have appeared."

Think About It.
There is a statement for people to ponder over. A possibility of hearing, or seeing, such people as W. H. Crane or Dustin Farnum, any of the people mentioned in the syndicate list, is enough to make people sit up and reckon whether it is not worth while to consider ways and means of securing whatever guarantee is needed. But if we do not get the big syndicate people we have something else to look forward to and to cheer us up, J. C. Williamson has promised Adams to send all of his companies this way. Williamson has some good people, else Sir Charles Wyndham would not be mentioned by him. Should Wyndham come here I verily believe the opera house would not be large enough to hold the crowd that would be willing to pay extra high prices, if charged, to see him, for a cleaner cut, better high class comedian has seldom trod the boards. Then again the Constabulary band will be here shortly.

Adams has done more to promote clean theatricals in Honolulu than is generally known. True it is that since he has had the management of the opera house he has played companies to good advantage but there are on his date book memorandums of the losses he has sustained in others.

CONFIDENCE
said Lord Chatham, "is a plant of slow growth." People believe in things that they see, and in a broad sense they are right. What is sometimes called blind faith is not faith at all. There must be reason and fact to form a foundation for trust. In regard to a medicine or remedy, for example, people ask, "Has it cured others? Have cases like mine been relieved by it? Is it in harmony with the truths of modern science, and has it a record above suspicion? If so, it is worthy of confidence; and if I am ever attacked by any of the maladies for which it is commended, I shall resort to it in full belief in its power to help me." On these lines **WAMPOLE'S PREPARATION** has won its high reputation among medical men, and the people of all civilized countries. They trust it for the same reason that they trust in the familiar laws of nature or in the action of common things. This effective remedy is palatable as honey and contains all the curative properties of pure Cod Liver Oil, extracted by us from fresh cod livers, combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites and the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry. It quickly eradicates the poisonous, disease-breeding acids and other toxic matters from the system; gives vigorous appetite and digestion, and is infallible in Prostration—following Fevers, Scrofula, Influenza, Asthma, Wasting Diseases, and Throat and Lung Troubles. Dr. W. A. Young, of Canada, says: "Your tasteless preparation of cod liver oil has given me uniformly satisfactory results, my patients having been of all ages." It is a product of the skill and science of the day and is successful after the old style modes of treatment have been appealed to in vain. Sold by all chemists.

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